

Sedang language

Sedang is an Austro-Asiatic language spoken in eastern Laos and Kon Tum Province in south central Vietnam. The Sedang language has the most speakers of any of the languages of the North Bahnaric language group, a group of languages known for their range of vowel phonations.

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Phonology

Consonants

		<u>Labial</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Nasal</u>		m	n	ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Plosive</u>	<u>prenasalized</u>	^m b	ⁿ d	^ɲ dʒ	^ŋ ɡ	
	<u>unaspirated</u>	p	t	tɕ	k	ʔ
	<u>aspirated</u>	pʰ	tʰ	tɕʰ	kʰ	
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	f	s		x	h
	<u>voiced</u>	v	z		ɣ	
<u>Approximant</u>		w	l	j		

Vowels

Sedang	
Native to	Vietnam and Laos
Region	Kon Tum, Quảng Nam, Quảng Ngãi, Dak Lak(Vietnam)
Ethnicity	Sedang people
Native speakers	98,000 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	Austroasiatic <ul style="list-style-type: none">Bahnaric<ul style="list-style-type: none">North Bahnaric<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sedang–Todrah<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sedang
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	sed
Glottolog	seda1262 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/seda1262) ^[2]

	Front	Central	Back
High	i		u
Upper Mid	e		o
Lower Mid	ɛ		ɔ
Low		a	

Diphthongs^[3]

	Front Glide	Central Glide	Back Glide
/i/ Nucleus	iɛ, ɿɛ	iə, ɿə, ʔɛ, ɿɛ	io, ʔo
/u/ Nucleus		uə, ʊə, ʊɛ, ʊə	uo, ʊo
/e/ Nucleus		eə, ɛə, ẽə, ẽə	eo, ɛo, ẽo
/o/ Nucleus	oɛ, ɔɛ	oə, ɔə, ɔɛ	

Sedang itself has 24 pure vowels: 7 vowel qualities, all of which may be plain ([a]), nasalized ([ã]), and creaky ([ǽ]) and three of which /i a o/ may be both nasal and creaky ([ǽ̃]). While it does not have the length distinctions of other North Bahnaric languages, it has more diphthongs, between 33 and 55 vowel sounds altogether. (The above set yields 50.) Sedang is thus sometimes claimed to have the largest vowel inventory in the world. However, other Bahnaric languages have more vowel qualities (Bahnar, for example, has 9) in addition to phonemic vowel length so the language with the record depends closely on how the languages are described and distinct vowels are defined.

References

1. Sedang (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/sed/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Sedang" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/seda1262>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Smith, Kenneth D. (1975). *Phonology and Syntax of Sedang, A Vietnam Mon-Khmer Language*. University of Pennsylvania. pp. 62–64.

Further reading

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- Lê Đông, Tạ Văn Thông (2008), *Từ điển Việt - Xơ Đăng*, Hanoi: Nhà xuất bản văn hóa thông tin

External links

- Sedang Dictionary (http://www-01.sil.org/silepubs/Pubs/928474543107/LCDD_17_Sedang_dictionary.pdf) with English, Vietnamese, and French glossaries
 - Paul Sidwell's Mon–Khmer language information (<https://web.archive.org/web/20110322035535/http://people.anu.edu.au/~u9907217/languages/languages.html>) at the Australian National University.
 - Sound sample (https://web.archive.org/web/20060303233454/http://www.anu.edu.au/~u9907217/languages/lang_images/Sedang_minimal_pair.wav) showing the distinction between clear and creaky vowels, from the link above.
 - Smith's dissertation (<http://repository.upenn.edu/dissertations/AAI7524131/>)
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